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REMARKS

Claims 1 – 12 are pending in this application. In a Non-Final Office Action mailed 09 January 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCarty et al. (US Patent No. 7,093,020, hereinafter "McCarty") in view of Pitcher (US Patent No. 6,721,398, hereinafter "Pitcher") noting with respect thereto:

> McCarty teaches all the elements of independent claim 1, including a unified messaging system (column 1, lines 20 to 30 and column 3, lines 24 to 29) that serves to interconnect a subscriber with a plurality of independently operable messaging services (Id.) to which they subscribe (Id.), each of said messaging services having a separate login and password for said subscriber (column 3, lines 30 to 35), comprising:
>
> sign-on service means (column 14, lines 44 to 48), accessible to a subscriber via a communication medium (Figure 3), for providing said subscriber with a single point of access (Id.) for a plurality of independently operable messaging services (Figure 4 and column 9 to 14) that are accessible to said sign-on service means (Id.) via said communication medium, comprising:
>
> service-wide directory means for storing said separate login and password data for said subscriber for each of said messaging services (column 11, lines 1 to 31),
>
> user interface means for providing said subscriber with a single user interface to access all of said messaging services (column 14, lines 44 to 47), and
>
> user login means for providing said subscriber with a single login to access said single user interface (Id.); and
>
> unified service access means (Figure 4 and its corresponding description, responsive to said subscriber selecting at least one of said messaging services (Figure 4), for using said subscriber login and password data to automatically log in to each of said messaging services selected by said subscriber via said user interface to access messages stored therein (Id.) and share calendaring applications (column 13, line 54) among said selected messaging services via said communication medium (Figure 4 and its corresponding description).
>
> But McCarty does not explicitly teach the sharing of a personal address book, however, McCarty does teach the use of a personal calendar, news, email, chats, and message boards, which do involve addresses. In addition, Pitcher teaches that the concept of shared address books integrated with messaging components across distributed systems is well known. See column 10, lines 58 to 62. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to understand that a personal address book would also be shared among the selected messaging services via the communication medium because this would allow the user to keep the personal address book up to date.

Applicants have reviewed the cited McCarty and Pitcher Patents and the Examiner's clearly stated rounds of rejection, and have amended independent claims 1 and 7 to distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited McCarty and Pitcher Patents and also present the following remarks in support of patentability.

The invention is a Single Sign-On Service for Communication Network Messaging which provides a wireless subscriber with the ability to log in with a single service provider via a single user interface with a single login and password, then move seamlessly among the selected messaging services to retrieve messages and share personal address book and calendaring applications. The subscriber logs into the Single Sign-On Service from either the wireless station set interface or from the WEB user interface using a laptop or personal computer to access an AnyPath Web server. Once the subscriber has signed on to the AnyPath Web server, the subscriber's account information is accessed in a centralized profile which stores the unique sets of login and password data for each of the independently operable messaging services (Short Message Service (SMS), unified messaging, voice-mail messaging) using a single directory server. There are two main components to enabling unified access to user data: (1) the service wide directory which stores the unique sets of login and password data for each of the independently operable messaging services, and (2) the single user interface which is used to activate the automatically operable login processes for each of the selected messaging services.

The cited McCarty patent discloses a system for providing a seamless user interface to one or more web-based external systems and applications that monitor and control access to information, products, and/or services provided by such web-based external systems. Accordingly, the methods and systems enable a user to utilize a single web-based graphical user interface to access external systems with minimal input from the user. Further, the invention coordinates the log-on, log-off, and time-out of the user from the external systems so that user has a seamless on-line experience. The user remains logged into each of the external systems so long as the user is logged into a main system and can log out of all the external systems by logging out of the main system. In addition, the user is not timed out of any external system unless the user is timed out of the main system. However, the various systems in the McCarty Patent are not interlinked in that they do not communicate among themselves. Each system is simply accessed by the user interface. Thus, there is no sharing of user information, such as address book, among the systems.

The Examiner has acknowledged this limitation as follows:

> But McCarty does not explicitly teach the sharing of a personal address book, however, McCarty does teach the use of a personal calendar, news, email, chats, and message boards, which do involve addresses. In addition, Pitcher teaches that the concept of shared address books integrated with messaging components across distributed systems is well known. See column 10, lines 58 to 62. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to understand that a personal address book would also be shared among the selected messaging services via the communication medium because this would allow the user to keep the personal address book up to date.

However, the existence of functionality in the McCarty system that has a physical address does not correspond to an address book. The Examiner attempts to fill the void by citing the Pitcher Patent.

The cited Pitcher Patent discloses a unified messaging system that enables a user to create e-mailboxes in any node served by the network. Voice, text, fax, and e-mail messages are all stored at the mailbox that receives them; and when the user logs into the system at any node, they are presented with a listing of all mailboxes that contain messages for the user. The user can then access all messages from the single accessed location.

The basic components of this system are defined in column 4, lines 24 – 29:

> Receiving Messages: The methods by which messages and communication enter the system. Once the messages are taken, they are put into the central In-box awaiting the user collection.
>
> Collecting Messages: The methods by which messages are retrieved from the central In-box.
>
> Thus, each node automatically forwards the received messages to the central In-box for retrieval by the user.

More particulars of this system are described in Column 4, lines 43 – 62:

> The user can receive messages via any of the nodes of the unified messaging system of the present invention by voicemail message, fax message, e-mail message, web response message, phone answering message, SMS and other wireless "short message service" based message, notification message, system message, video-mail message, and white board message.
>
> Once the messages are received, they are stored in the user's In-box. The In-box to the user has one central location, i.e., one location logically. The

> Actual In-box has the messages and components spread over the distributed node based system, physically distributed.
>
> The types of incoming messages which can potentially be supported by the system of the present invention are detailed below.
>
> For voicemail messages, each user is assigned a unique phone number on each node they subscribe to. This phone number acts as a unique identifier for calls coming in. In this way, incoming calls are matched to the appropriate user.

Thus, the Pitcher system stores all of the message information in the user's central In-box which can be retrieved as described in column 5, line 61 – column 6, line 12:

> Once the user has received one or more of the messages described in the above section, they are deposited in the user's In-box. They must now be collected. There are two categories of message collection – Push and Pull. A Push collection method involves the message being pushed out at the control of the In-box intelligent routing agents. A Pull collection method involves the user connecting to the In-box and manually requesting the messages.
>
> Messages can be collected by phone by calling any node. This involves a "Gateway Collection" number which rings on the node machine hardware. An account and PIN number is then entered and messages are retrieved via a voice menu system. Where the node based unified messaging system of the present invention differs from that of the traditional systems is that the user can call any node. These nodes, of course, can be located anywhere in the world and are all connected via the network connection.

Thus, all of the nodes in the Pitcher system are linked together and do not require a separate login and password to access the messages stored therein, as noted in column 6, lines 29 – 32:

> Messages can be collected by the Internet World Wide Web interface from any Internet terminal with a WWW browser. This involves entering the web address and then entering an account log-on-detail and password. Once authenticated, the user is presented with a view of their In-box in graphical form.

Thus, the nodes of the Pitcher system are linked together and do not have a separate login and password for each node; therefore, they fail to show or suggest automatically initiating a login into each of the selected messaging systems, using the set of login and password data associated with each selected messaging system, as is specifically required in Applicants' claim 1.

The Examiner attempts to draw a correspondence between Applicants' recited:

> unified service access means, responsive to said subscriber selecting at least one of said messaging services, for using said subscriber login and password data to automatically log in to each of said messaging services selected by said subscriber via said user interface to access messages stored therein and share personal address book and calendaring applications among said selected messaging services via said communication medium.

and the teachings of the Pitcher Patent, noting that column 10, lines 58 – 61 of the Pitcher Patent teach an address book shared among the various systems in the network. However, the excerpt cited by the Examiner reads:

> Since the system of the present invention is based on a distributed system, it can provide work group features such as shared calendars, to do lists, shared address books, meeting request tools and file sharing capabilities.

This quote is in reference to "work groups", not the user's information stored on different systems. In business management, a work group consists of a number of individuals which work for a common purpose and as a group is encouraged to manage its own work and working practices, and more importantly, share files, calendars, address books, etc., as noted in the quote. Thus, a work group does not refer to a service that automatically shares an individual's address book and calendar applications among disparate systems, but to the contrary shares multiple individuals' files on a single system among the multiple individuals who are on that system. Thus, the Pitcher Patent fails to show or suggest the above-noted structure recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants believes that claim 1 is allowable under 35 USC §103(a) over the cited McCarty and Pitcher Patents for the reasons noted above. Applicants also believe that independent claim 7 is also allowable under 35 USC §103(a) over the McCarty and Pitcher Patents for the reasons noted with respect to claim 1. Applicants also believe that claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 are allowable under 35 USC §103(a), since these claims depend on allowable base claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Examiner Stein is requested to contact the undersigned if a telephone conference could further the allowance of this application.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1848, under Order No. 013436.0279PTUS from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,
PATTON BOGGS LLP

Dated: 9 APRIL 2007

By: James M. Graziano
James M. Graziano
Registration No.: 28,300
(303) 830-1776
(303) 894-9239 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 24283